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KEY POINTS IN 17 DAY HOSTAGE DRAMA

BEIRUT, June 30, Reuter - Thirty-nine Americans, many bearded and bleary-eyed, left Damascus today en route to Frankfurt, West Germany, ending an odyssey of terror that lasted 17 days.

Here is a chronology of key acts in the drama (all times EDT) that began in the skies over Greece on June 14 when a TWA jet en route from Athens to Rome was seized by two Shi'ite Moslem gunmen.

Thursday, June 13

11.04 p.m. Two Lebanese Shi'ite Moslems carrying hand grenades and at least one hand gun seize TWA flight 847 soon after take-off from Athens with 153 people, mostly Americans, on board.

Friday, June 14

-- 4.55 a.m. Flight 847 lands in Beirut. Hijackers release 17 American women and two children. A hijacker radios main demand: freedom for more than 700 mainly Shi'ite Lebanese held prisoner in Israel.

-- 6.25 a.m. Plane takes off from Beirut.

-- 10.33 a.m. Plane lands in Algiers, 22 people released.

-- 3.15 p.m. Plane leaves Algiers.

-- 7.25 p.m. Plane lands in Beirut a second time. Hijackers shoot dead a U.S. Navy diver Robert Stethem and dump his body on tarmac.

-- 10.50 p.m. Aircraft leaves Beirut.

Saturday, June 15:

-- 2.45 a.m. Aircraft lands in Algiers a second time. Three passengers are released. Algerian negotiators board aircraft.

-- About 10.00 a.m. Hijackers threaten to kill passengers one by one and blow up the plane if there is no response to their demands. They say they do not belong to any organization.

-- About 11.15 a.m. An accomplice of the hijackers, detained in Athens after he failed to get a seat on the TWA flight, is exchanged for 19 Greek and U.S. Passengers and five stewardesses. Another 25 passengers are released later.

-- About 3.45 p.m. Hijackers free 10 elderly men after Algerian authorities broadcast their demands.

-- About 8.00 p.m. Hijackers release three hostages after talks with official from International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Sunday, June 16:

-- 4.00 a.m. Plane leaves Algiers.

-- 7.50 a.m. Aircraft lands in Beirut for third time.

-- About 6.00 p.m. Scare at Beirut airport over possible foreign attack. Shi'ite Amal militiamen fire at unidentified vessel off coast escorted by helicopter.

-- Amal leader Nabih Berri, representing the hijackers, begins negotiations with West European diplomats. Over the next days, France, Switzerland and Austria all offer to help.

Monday, June 17:



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1-- Before dawn: About 30 hostages are taken from plane to secret locations in Beirut.

Tuesday, June 18:

-- Israel says it would consider an appeal from ICRC to free the Shi'ite prisoners in exchange for hostages. ICRC says it would oversee an exchange if asked by all parties.

-- About 8.00 a.m. Three hostages, including Greek pop singer Demis Roussos, freed.

-- White House says piecemeal release of hostages is uncivilized. U.S. State Department warns Americans against use of Athens airport, drawing protest from Greece.

Wednesday, June 19:

-- Two Lebanese Shi'ites, whose release is also sought by the hijackers, go on trial in Madrid for attempted murder. Spain later sentences them to 23 years imprisonment.

-- Flight Capt. John Testrake, interviewed at plane, says rescue attempt would probably kill him and other two crew men.

-- Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Rabin says Israel would consider a U.S. request to release the prisoners but would not free them unilaterally.

Saturday, June 22:

-- Captors move hostages to new hideouts, Amal says.

Sunday, June 23:

-- Reagan says U.S. Will not use force to free hostages.

Monday, June 24:

-- About 5.30 a.m. Israel releases 31 prisoners but still retains 735 others. Hijackers do not free any hostages.

Tuesday, June 25:

-- White House says Reagan is considering blockade of Lebanon and other measures if diplomatic efforts fail.

Wednesday, June 26:

-- About 8.00 a.m. Berri frees one hostage for health reasons.

-- U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz insists on release of seven kidnapped Americans in Lebanon in addition to 39 from the hijack drama.

Friday, June 28:

-- Berri says Reagan and Syrian President Assad are in close contact over the hijack.

-- Reagan calls hijackers ``thugs, murderers and barbarians'' and pledges to get all 46 Americans freed.

Saturday, June 29:

-- Syrian officials say the 39 TWA hostages to be moved to Damascus. Sources close to U.S. Embassy in Damascus say hostages will fly to Frankfurt.

-- Confusion in Beirut as four hostages fail to join the others waiting to travel to Damascus. Departure postponed.

Sunday, June 30:

-- 10.45 a.m. 39 hostages finally leave Beirut for Damascus in International Red Cross convoy by road.

-- 2.30 p.m. Hostages arrive in Damacus, hold press conference and prepare to leave for Frankfurt, West Germany, and on to United States.

-- 5.30 p.m. Hostages leave Damascus for Frankfurt.